

U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Illinois

A. Courtney Cox, U.S. Attorney

February 2010



A Message from the U.S. Attorney

HEROIN

A decrease in price and a significant increase in purity are contributing factors in the rising use of heroin in our District and throughout the country. Increased use creates a corresponding increase in heroin-related deaths.

Robert Patrick of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch recently reported that more than 150 people, many in their 20s and 30s, died in the region in 2009 as the result of heroin overdoses. The number of heroin deaths in St. Louis County has doubled in the past two years. Patrick reports that a kilogram of heroin that once cost \$150,000 now sells for one-third that price.

Unlike meth and crack cocaine, heroin use transcends racial, age, and social differences. We see increased use in both urban and rural settings, often from middle and upper-middle class families.

This trend stands in sharp contrast to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which reported that the number of current (past-month) heroin users in the United States decreased from 338,000 in 2006 to 153,000 in 2007. Clearly, the use of heroin is changing . . . for the worse.

Even the rural community of Jerseyville, Illinois, reports an increase in arrests for "China White" heroin,

together with an increase in overdoses and deaths related to overdoses. We have also seen an increase in heroin use in other parts of our District, including Centralia, Jackson County, and more rural areas. This increase shows no signs of abating in the near future.

According to the National Drug Threat Assessment (National Drug Intelligence Center), the primary source for heroin in the United States is not Afghanistan. Most of the importation of heroin into the United States comes from Mexico and Columbia. Most of the production from Afghanistan is distributed in Europe and Asia. Production in Mexico has increased significantly since 1999, while Columbian production has decreased. Most indications are that the flow of heroin into the United States is through the Southwest border. According to this assessment, the size of these shipments from Mexico is increasing.

The question is what are we going to do with this information? Clearly, this problem cannot be solved by law enforcement and prosecutors alone. We must partner with educators, civic leaders, service providers, parents, and others to develop a global strategy to address this issue. We all have to get in front of this problem . . . lives are at stake.

A. Courtney Cox

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Link to our website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ils/index.html>

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January 27 and 28, 2010: LECC Ron Shownes and Victim Witness Coordinator Julie Swanston attended a Heartland of America LEC/Victim Witness Conference in Springfield, Illinois. Topics covered were Project Safe Neighborhood, Project Safe Childhood, Victim Impact Statement, Reentry, and Anti-Terrorism.



Numerous staff members from the United States Attorney's Office, United States Marshals Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Illinois State Police, Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois, East St. Louis Police Department, elected officials, clergy, and other public officials attended the five community forums in East St. Louis to address the concerns of citizens regarding crime in their neighborhoods.



"Take Back Your Neighborhood"

Schedule of Forums Attended

January 26, 2010: New Bethel M.B. Church, 5803 Belmont Avenue, Rev. Myron Taylor, Pastor

January 28, 2010: New Life Community Church, 1919 State Street, Rev. Kendall Granger, Pastor

February 2, 2010: Shining Light M.B. Church, 1216 Colas Street, Rev. Jerome Rodgers, Pastor

February 4, 2010: Galilee Central M.B. Church, 2334 Lincoln Street, Rev. Matthew J. Turner, Pastor

February 9, 2010: New Horizon Community Church, 3315 Summit Avenue, Rev. Ranadore Foggs, Pastor



LECC Activities, continued

February 11, 2010: As part of the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council's critical infrastructure initiative as it relates to security vulnerability, LECC Ron Shownes and Intelligence Specialist Mario Jimenez attended a Creating a Security Culture seminar at Saint Louis University. Critical infrastructure is defined as the physical and cyber systems so vital to the operations of the United States that their incapacity or destruction would seriously weaken national defense, economic security, or public safety.

Upcoming LECC Activities

February 25, 2010: As a direct result of the East St. Louis community forums, a program was developed on Gang Awareness to assist the citizens in understanding graffiti and identifying gang members.



GANG AWARENESS



February 25th 2010 at 6:30 pm til 8:30 pm

New Horizon Community Church

3315 Summit Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois

Identification of gangs and gang members

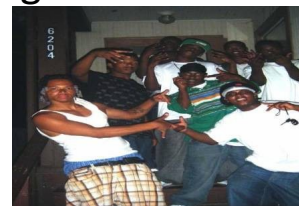
Graffiti and gang locations

Instructors: Local Task Force Officer
East St. Louis Police Juvenile Officer



Panel of local officers, state and Federal agents for

Questions and Answers



Upcoming LECC Activities, continued

April 6, 2010: At the request of the Mike Norrington, Director of Mobile Training Unit 15, LECC Ron Shownes coordinated a class on Violent Encounters – A Study of Felonious Assaults on Police Officers to be held at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois.



Violent Encounters – A Study of Felonious Assaults on Our Nation's Law Enforcement Officers



Sponsored by the Illinois Criminal Justice Training Program and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee

**Presented by 28 year Law Enforcement Veteran and
FBI LEOKA Representative Mike Sumeracki**

Tuesday April 6th, 2010

08:30 to 4:30

**John A. Logan College Room H-127
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL 62918**

This program provides information on the history and policy relating to the LEOKA (Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted) Program. Included are in-depth analyses of two studies which were concluded in 1992 and 1997, and resulted in the publications "Killed in the Line of Duty" and "In the Line of Fire." The objectives of these studies were to identify elements in certain situations which led to the ultimate felonious deaths and serious injuries of police officers. Demographic and behavioral descriptors for the victim officers and the offenders were developed and will be presented along with findings and resulting safety training issues.

The emphasis of the presentation will be focused on the final companion study which was concluded in 2006, and resulted in a publication entitled "Violent Encounters." This study examines 40 incidents where police officers survived life threatening attacks. Demographic and behavioral descriptors for the victim officers and the offenders were developed and will be presented along with findings and resulting training issues.

Presentation will consist of lecture and discussion augmented by video of offenders and victim law enforcement personnel. Handout materials will consist of the three studies: "Killed in the Line of Duty," "In the Line of Fire," and "Violent Encounters."

**This training is FREE to all local, state and federal law enforcement officers. Seating is limited. To register call SICJTP at
618 457 3514**

RECENT NOTEWORTHY CASES**COCAINE**

On January 11, 2010, [EARL L. DYESS](#), age 33, of Centralia, Illinois, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to a two-count indictment. The offenses occurred in June 2009.

DYESS faces a possible penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, at least three years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$1,000,000 as to each count. Sentencing is currently scheduled for April 16, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Centralia Police Department, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Illinois State Police, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the Marion County State's Attorney's Office, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, and other law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On January 15, 2010, [LEE E. BROWN](#), age 33, of Washington Park, Illinois, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to a single count of possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine.

BROWN is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30, 2010, at which time he will face a penalty of ten years' to life imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a fine up to \$4,000,000.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

On January 15, 2010, [DEMOND SPRUILL](#), a/k/a "Duke," age 35, of Alton, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

SPRUILL was sentenced to 188 months' imprisonment, six years' supervised release, and a \$300 fine.

SPRUILL pled guilty on August 14, 2009, to two counts of distribution of crack cocaine. The offenses occurred on December 4, 2008, and on December 5, 2008, in Alton, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Alton Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald S. Boyce.

On January 20, 2010, [MICHAEL TYSON](#), age 51, of Metropolis, Illinois, was sentenced to 41 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$300 fine, and a \$200 special assessment for his involvement in distributing crack cocaine in Metropolis, Illinois, in July 2008.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

TYSON had previously been indicted April 7, 2009, on one count of distribution of crack cocaine which occurred on July 9, 2008, and one count of distribution of crack cocaine which occurred on July 10, 2008, and pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois, on August 11, 2009.

TYSON was caught and arrested after he repeatedly sold crack cocaine to a confidential informant. He has been detained since his indictment in April 2009.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois State Police, the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.

On January 21, 2010, **EDWARD L. FLETCHER, JR.**, age 50, of Harrisburg, Illinois, pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. The violation took place on March 30, 2009, in Williamson County.

FLETCHER's offense carries a potential penalty of ten years' to life imprisonment, eight years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. **FLETCHER** is currently being held without bond pending sentencing which is currently scheduled for April 30, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Marion Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On January 22, 2010, **MODJET BROWN**, age 29, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to two counts of distribution of cocaine.

BROWN is currently scheduled to be sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis on April 30, 2010. **BROWN** faces a possible sentence of five to 40 years' imprisonment, at least four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

On January 29, 2010, **MYLES A. PAUL**, age 39, of Lynwood, California, was sentenced to 151 months' imprisonment and five years' supervised release and was ordered to pay \$1,000 in fines and special assessment. **PAUL** pled guilty on October 14, 2009, to one count of possession with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

The charge stemmed from a traffic stop by the Illinois State Police on I-55 near Collinsville, Illinois, which led to the discovery of in excess of 80 kilograms of cocaine. The cocaine was discovered in a hidden compartment after a State Police K-9 alerted to the presence of drugs in the truck-tractor that was driven by **PAUL**.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Illinois State Police.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ranley R. Killian.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

On February 5, 2010, [MATTHEW A. WAGNER](#), age 33, of Carterville, Illinois, pled guilty to a one-count superseding indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute cocaine. The violation took place between 2005 and June 2009 in Williamson and Saline Counties in Illinois.

The offense carries a penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. **WAGNER** is being held without bond pending a May 7, 2010, sentencing hearing. Co-defendant, **JAMES S. HUBBARD, JR., a/k/a "Bo,"** has already pled guilty and is awaiting a February 18, 2010, sentencing hearing.

The investigation was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force operation and was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, Illinois State Police and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group. In addition, the Williamson, Jackson, and Saline County States Attorneys' Offices have assisted throughout the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

COCAINE AND HEROIN

On October 6, 2009, [CALVIN R. BROWN](#), age 25, of Centralia, Illinois, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Benton, Illinois. The indictment was originally suppressed, but has since been unsealed.

The indictment charges **BROWN** with possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine (Count 1); distribution of heroin (Count 2);

and distribution of crack cocaine (Count 3).

Count 1 carries a possible penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, at least four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000.

Counts 2 and 3 each carries a possible penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, at least three years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.

BROWN was arrested on January 25, 2010, and had an initial appearance in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Centralia Police Department, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Illinois State Police, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the Marion County State's Attorney's Office, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, and other law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On January 15, 2010, [DORIAN D. REEVES](#), age 28, and **CHRISTOPHER V. DABNEY**, age 27, both of Centralia, Illinois, pled guilty to various counts of a federal indictment in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

REEVES pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin, which occurred between August 2009 and September 30, 2009, in Jefferson and Marion Counties. **REEVES** also pled guilty to three counts of distribution of heroin,

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

which occurred on August 29, 2009, September 1, 2009, and September 16, 2009, in Centralia, Illinois. Each count carries a possible penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.

DABNEY pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, which occurred between August 2008 and September 30, 2009, in Jefferson and Marion Counties. This charge carries a possible penalty of ten years' to life imprisonment, at least five years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. **DABNEY** also pled guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. This charge carries a possible penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, at least four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000.

Sentencing for both **REEVES** and **DABNEY** is scheduled for April 19, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Centralia Police Department, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Illinois State Police, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the Marion County State's Attorney's Office, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, and other law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

OVERDOSE DEATH

On January 15, 2010, [JOSEPH PERRONE](#), age 45, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, was sentenced to

20 years' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$9,800 for distribution of cocaine resulting in death.

PERRONE pled guilty to that charge on September 25, 2009. **PERRONE** admitted at his change-of-plea hearing that he had injected (Ms.) Terry Learn with cocaine at his residence in Fairview Heights on April 17, 2009, and that she collapsed and died immediately thereafter. **PERRONE** also admitted moving Learn's body to her apartment in Belleville after she died in order to make it seem that she had been alone in her own home when she died.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Fairview Heights Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert L. Garrison.

On February 10, 2010, [RYAN W. ASSELIN](#), age 24, of O'Fallon, Illinois, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to a federal indictment charging distribution of heroin resulting in death. **ASSELIN's** sentencing hearing is currently scheduled for May 14, 2010.

At his change-of-plea hearing, **ASSELIN** admitted providing the heroin which caused the death of a resident of O'Fallon, Illinois, on October 5, 2009.

ASSELIN faces a sentence of 20 years to life imprisonment, at least three years' supervised release, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and a special assessment of \$100.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, O'Fallon Police Department, and Metropolitan Enforcement Group

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

of Southwestern Illinois.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert L. Garrison.

METHAMPHETAMINE

On January 19, 2010, [JOSHUA DUCKWORTH](#), age 30, of Carterville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

DUCKWORTH, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, was sentenced to 87 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a \$500 fine.

The violation occurred between August 2006 and October 2008 in Jackson, Williamson, and Union Counties in Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team, COMIT Drug Task Force, Union County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative for the Southern District of Illinois. The Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and U.S. Postal Service also assisted in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On January 29, 2010, [BECKY D. MORGAN](#), age 48, of Bethalto, Illinois, pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging her with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

The violation took place between August 2006 and October 2008 in Jackson, Williamson, and Union Counties in Illinois. **MORGAN's** offense carries a potential penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000.

MORGAN is currently scheduled to be sentenced on May 17, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team, COMIT Drug Task Force, Union County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative for the Southern District of Illinois. The Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and U.S. Postal Service also assisted in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On February 12, 2010, [WADE L. GRIFFIN](#), age 25, of Sikeston, Missouri, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

GRIFFIN, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, was sentenced to 70 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a \$200 fine.

The violation took place between December 2005 and May 21, 2009, in Jackson, Williamson, and Franklin Counties in Illinois. Three co-defendants have previously been sentenced for their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Four co-defendants have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. One co-defendant has pled

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

not guilty and is awaiting a March 1, 2010, jury trial.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team and COMIT Drug Task Force, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

MARIJUANA

On January 15, 2010, [APRIL ASKEW](#), age 33, of St. Louis, Missouri, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to an indictment charging her with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana.

ASKEW is scheduled to be sentenced on May 7, 2010, at which time he will face a penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, at least four years' supervised release, and a fine up to \$2,000,000.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

On January 22, 2010, [JARMARL K. JOHNSON](#), age 30, of East St. Louis, Illinois, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.

JOHNSON is currently scheduled to be sen-

tenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis on May 7, 2010. **JOHNSON** faces a sentence of ten years' to life imprisonment, at least five years' supervised release, and a fine up to \$4,000,000.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). The OCDETF program is a federal initiative designed to provide cooperative investigations by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target national and international drug distribution organizations.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On January 21, 2010, [THOMAS E. LOWERY](#), age 68, of East Alton, Illinois, was indicted by a federal grand jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, in a three-count indictment charging him with possession of child pornography (Count 1); receipt of child pornography (Count 2); and possession of obscene materials (Count 3). The violations are alleged to have taken place from on or about August, 28, 2008, until on or about April 22, 2009, in Madison County, Illinois.

If convicted on Count 1, **LOWERY** faces a sentence of up to ten years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and five years to life supervised release. If convicted on Count 2, **LOWERY** faces a sentence of five to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and five years to life supervised release. If convicted on Count 3, **LOWERY** faces a sentence of up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and five years to life supervised release.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The investigation was conducted by the Fairview Heights Police Department, Collinsville Police Department, and Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative of the Department of Justice designed to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

On February 2, 2010, [KENNETH L. GORDON](#), age 27, of Carterville, Illinois, was named in a one-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Benton, Illinois.

The indictment charges that on August 14, 2009, **GORDON** possessed child pornography that has been mailed or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer.

GORDON had his initial appearance in the U.S. District Court on February 4, 2010. **GORDON** has been ordered into the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending trial which is scheduled for April 2010 in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

GORDON faces up to ten years' imprisonment, five years' to lifetime supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation - Southern Illinois

Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Carterville Police Department, and a number of state and local law enforcement agencies. This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, in which the United States Attorney's Office, in conjunction with federal and state law enforcement authorities, is actively investigating and prosecuting individuals who produce, distribute, or possess child pornography.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

ESCAPED BANKROBBER RECEIVES 30 YEARS

On January 29, 2010, [RODNEY L. BROWN](#), age 34, a former resident of Alton, Illinois, was sentenced *in absentia* to 276 months' imprisonment for the bank robbery itself and to a consecutive term of 84 months' imprisonment for using a firearm during the robbery. Brown was also ordered to pay restitution of \$30,063 to U.S. Bank, to pay \$200 in special assessments, and to serve a term of five years' supervised release.

BROWN and two other inmates escaped from the Tri-County Detention Center in Ullin, Illinois, on January 6, 2010. He remains at large.

On December 18, 2008, a federal jury found **BROWN** guilty of robbing the U.S. Bank in Alton on October 20, 2006. According to evidence presented at his jury trial, **BROWN** and three other men took \$68,112 from the bank. One of **BROWN's** co-defendants entered the bank and forced a bank officer into the bank's vault by threatening her with a handgun and a purported bomb.

BROWN was arrested at a residence in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 27, 2007. Police recovered approximately \$10,000 of the bank robbery proceeds from the residence in which

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

BROWN was arrested.

The investigation was conducted by the Alton Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Milwaukee Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert L. Garrison.

FIREARM CHARGES

On January 15, 2010, [MARK N. HARMON](#), age 29, of Shawneetown, Illinois, pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois, to one count of attempted possession of a firearm in a federal facility with the intent to commit a crime.

The evidence established that in the early morning hours of October 9, 2009, **HARMON** issued threats to employees of the Veterans' Affairs (VA) Hospital in Marion, Illinois. **HARMON** then drove to the Marion, Illinois VA facility. Law enforcement officers stopped **HARMON's** vehicle and **HARMON** was detained and handcuffed. Inside **HARMON's** vehicle was a handgun, a magazine loaded to full capacity with 13 rounds of ammunition, and another 13 rounds of loose ammunition.

HARMON faces a sentence of up to five years' imprisonment, up to three years' supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing is scheduled for April 19, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the VA Police Department, the Marion Police Department, and the Williamson County Sheriff's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On January 21, 2010, [FRED JAMES ENGLISH](#), age 27, of Mounds, Illinois, was indicted by a federal grand jury in a one-count indictment charging unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition by a previously convicted felon. According to the indictment, the violation is alleged to have taken place on January 6, 2010, in Pulaski County, Illinois, and alleged possession of a loaded, Waffen-Frankonia .38 Caliber Special revolver; an Izhmash, semi-automatic rifle, with a magazine containing 28 live rounds of ammunition; and another magazine loaded with ten live rounds of ammunition.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of not more than ten years' imprisonment, up to three years' supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.

On January 25, 2010, **ENGLISH** made his initial appearance in the U.S. District Court on the indictment. He was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending his jury trial which is currently scheduled for March 22, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Illinois State Police, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.

SOCIAL SECURITY/FOOD STAMP FRAUD

On January 15, 2010, [ROOSEVELT PARKER](#), age 42, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$500 special assessment, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$20,807.65.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

PARKER was convicted of three counts of misuse of a social security number, one count of concealment of material information from the Social Security Administration, and one count of making false statements on a food stamp application. **PARKER** pled guilty to the charges on September 21, 2009. He is currently in custody, following revocation of his bond.

According to a factual stipulation filed at the time of the plea, the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Bureau of Investigations, Office of Inspector General started an investigation when it was discovered that **PARKER** was working as a “repo man” for a used car dealer under a false social security number and that he had not been reporting his employment or his income to the Social Security Administration or to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (which administers the federally funded, need-based food stamp program). As a result, **PARKER** received \$18,785.65 in SSI benefits and \$2,022 in food stamp benefits to which he was not entitled.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

DIGGING UP ARTIFACTS

On January 19, 2010, [LESLIE JONES](#), age 50, of Creal Springs, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

JONES pled guilty to an information on October 5, 2009, charging that **JONES** did knowingly excavate, remove, damage, and otherwise alter and deface archaeological resources located on public lands without having a permit. The violation took place beginning on or about 2004 and continued through February 2007 in Union

County, within the Southern District of Illinois, and elsewhere.

JONES was sentenced to five years’ probation, 30 days’ imprisonment, and 500 hours’ community service. In addition to the normal terms and conditions of probation, **JONES** was ordered not to sell to any antiquities dealer or enter onto any state or federal property where antiquities may be found without prior approval from the probation office.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Hudson.

IMMIGRATION OFFENSES

On January 15, 2010, [CESAR HERNANDEZ-ESCALANTE](#), age 29, of Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois.

HERNANDEZ-ESCALANTE was sentenced to 15 months’ imprisonment and \$200 in special assessments and will face removal from the United States after serving his sentence for illegal reentry into the United States after having been removed, and transporting an illegal alien for financial gain.

HERNANDEZ-ESCALANTE pled guilty on September 2, 2009, to those charges in U.S. District Court in Benton.

HERNANDEZ-ESCALANTE had previously been removed from the United States pursuant to law on June 11, 2009, through Harlingen, Texas. His most recent violations took place on June 21, 2009, in Effingham County, Illinois. He was caught on Interstate 70 by a deputy from the

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

Effingham Sheriff's Department who stopped the vehicle he was driving for having too many passengers. A subsequent investigation by agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement, determined that the eight passengers in his vehicle were illegal aliens being transported by **HERNANDEZ-ESCALATE** for financial gain.

The investigation was conducted by the Effingham County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.

TRANSPORTING AN ILLEGAL ALIEN

On February 11, 2010, **JAZIEL CASTILLO-GARCIA**, age 18, of Mexico, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to six months' imprisonment following his guilty plea to a one-count information charging him with transportation of an illegal alien. Following release from imprisonment, **CASTILLO-GARCIA** will be delivered to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for removal proceedings. He will also serve three years' supervised release after his release from incarceration if he is not removed from the country and must pay a \$100 special assessment. The violation took place in Madison County, Illinois, and elsewhere.

According to information provided in open court prior to sentencing, **CASTILLO-GARCIA** was stopped for speeding by an Illinois State Trooper on January 28, 2010. At the time, there were 11 illegal aliens in his vehicle.

The investigation was conducted by ICE and the Illinois State Police.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen B. Clark.

MISAPPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDS

On January 22, 2010, **KOREY L. RUSH**, age 40, of Swansea, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

RUSH was sentenced to 33 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$38,120 in restitution to the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE).

RUSH pled guilty on October 8, 2009, to wire fraud, misapplication of funds from programs receiving federal funding, and obstruction of justice by tampering with a witness.

RUSH was indicted on May 19, 2009. The indictment alleged that beginning July 1, 1994, **RUSH** was employed by SIUE in the federally-funded "Talent Search Program." The Talent Search program is designed to identify individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education and assist those individuals in completing high school and enrolling in postsecondary education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to the postsecondary institution of their choice. Talent Search also serves high school dropouts by encouraging them to reenter the education system and complete their education.

During the time periods alleged in the indictment, **RUSH** was the Assistant Program Director who misapplied, and permitted others to misapply, federal grant funds for his own personal use and the personal use of others. **RUSH** pled guilty

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

for using federal grant funds to purchase gift cards, electronics, alcoholic beverages, groceries, and other consumer goods in violation of the rules and regulations limiting the expenditure of federal grant funds. **RUSH** admitted encouraging a witness to provide false information to investigators in order to conceal the fact that **RUSH** authorized \$8,000 in payments to the witness for services that were never performed.

The investigation was conducted by the SIUE Police Department and the U.S. Department of Education.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. Weinhoeft.

BANK FRAUD

On January 22, 2010, [MICHELLE KNEBEL](#), age 38, of Pocahontas, Illinois, was sentenced to 33 months' imprisonment and five years' supervised release and was ordered to pay mandatory restitution remaining in the amount of \$149,622.42, as a result of her conviction for bank fraud.

KNEBEL was employed as a vice president and regional deposit supervisor of First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust. Evidence established that she embezzled funds over a ten year period from 1998 through June of 2008, fraudulently using the bank's computerized banking software to unlawfully transfer funds to her personal account causing a loss of approximately \$174,000.

The bank has replenished the money to the account holders' accounts and therefore no bank customers sustained a monetary loss.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

On February 5, 2010, [JUSTIN L. BUCKNER](#), age 23, of Chicago, Illinois, and **JULIE K. GREER**, age 22, of Carbondale, Illinois, were sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, for their roles in a bank fraud scheme centered in Jackson County, Illinois. Previously, **BUCKNER** had pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and eight counts of bank fraud, and **GREER** had pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. **BUCKNER** was sentenced to six months' home detention and five years' probation and was ordered to pay Regions Bank, First Southern Bank, Old National Bank, and Southern Illinois University (SIU) Credit Union a total of \$21,803.57 in restitution. **GREER** was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay SIU Credit Union and First Southern Bank a total of \$7,927.16 in restitution.

Evidence supporting the guilty pleas and sentences showed that **BUCKNER** and **GREER** engaged in a debit card scam between November 2006 and February 2007, through which debit cards and PIN numbers were obtained from individuals with the promise of payments of \$500-\$1,000 to the individuals providing them. Those involved in the scam would then deposit counterfeit checks, usually in amounts of \$3,000-\$4,000, into the accounts and then make ATM withdrawals and retail purchases until the banks discovered that the deposited checks were counterfeit. In an effort to avoid criminal liability themselves, the debit cards were then reported lost or stolen to the banks by the actual owners of the cards. Specifically, **BUCKNER** and **GREER** were both involved in recruiting individuals to provide their debit cards and PIN numbers and

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

BUCKNER also then used the cards at ATM machines and retail stores. Numerous other individuals involved in the scam have previously pled guilty and been sentenced in both federal court and Jackson County Circuit Court.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Secret Service, Carbondale Police Department, Southern Illinois University Police Department, Jackson County State's Attorney's Office, and U.S. Attorney's Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.

February 1-28

- United States: Black History Month

February 1

- United States: National Freedom Day – The anniversary of the 13th Amendment that officially abolished slavery. (1865)
- Iraq: Ansar al-Sunna attacks Kurdistan Democratic Party and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan facilities, killing 117 and wounding 221. (2004)
- Ecuador: A U.S. oil worker, who was kidnapped in October 2000 with seven other foreigners in Ecuador's jungles, was found dead with gunshot wounds to the back. A message on a sheet covering his body said he was killed because his oil company refused to pay a ransom. Police identified the victim as Ronald Clay Sander, age 54, a technician with Helmerich & Payne Inc., based in Tulsa. Sander's body, dressed in khaki-colored overalls and leather boots, was covered with a white sheet, emblazoned with the words in Spanish: "I am a gringo. For nonpayment of ransom." (2001)

February 2

- France: ETA's (AKA for Basque Fatherland and Liberty) Iglesias Chauvas and Conchita Alvarez arrested; both suspects in 1995 plot to assassinate King of Spain. (2000)

February 3

- United States: The 16th Amendment giving power to Congress to levy income taxes took effect. (1913)
- Syria & Sudan: Countries sign an agreement on fighting terrorism in compliance with Arab Anti-Terrorism Convention. (2000)

February 4

- Sri Lanka: Independence Day

February 5

- Algeria & France: Countries sign an accord to cooperate in fighting terrorism. (2001)

February 6

- Russia: Unknown group detonates explosives in Moscow metro, killing 40 and wounding 122. (2004)
- United Kingdom: Arlana Afghan flight hijacked; 20 hostages released unharmed; hijackers surrender on February 10. (2000)

February 7

- United States: Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for the arson at the Pinewood Apartment Homes complex located in Sutter Creek, California. Graffiti located at the site included "ELF" and "We will win." (2005)
- United Kingdom: Attack on Number 10 Downing Street; mortar rounds fired at Prime Minister John Major's residence injuring three; Provisional Irish Republican Army responsible. (1991)

February 9

- Sri Lanka: Terrorist Group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam female suicide bomber kills 28, wounds 90 in Vishvamu. (2009)
- Turkey: Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) announces formal halt to war; adopts new name, Kongra-Gel, and re-elects Abdullah Ocalan as leader. (2000)

February 10

- Iraq: Unknown group bombs job applicants at police station, killing 55 and wounding 67. (2004)

February 11

- Iran: Revolution Day. Ayatollah Khomeini assumed control of Iran's central government. (1979)
- United States: A small bomb exploded at the Barclay Bank on Wall Street in New York City, New York. (2000)

February 12

- Syria: Imad Mughniyan, believed responsible for April 18, 1983, bombing of U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killed by car bomb in Damascus. (2008)
- United States: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (the sixteenth President of the United States; February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865.

February 13

- Colombia: Terrorist Groups Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army stage attacks, killing 12, kidnapping 16. (2000)

February 14

- Lebanon: Former Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri is assassinated by car bomb in Beirut; United Nations investigation in October finds Syria responsible. (2005)
- ♥ United States: **Valentine's Day**
- Chinese New Year
- United States: Northern Illinois University campus in DeKalb shooting, six killed and 18 injured. (2008)

February 15

- Turkey: PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan arrested and returned to Turkey; arrest sparks Kurdish protests across Europe. (1999)
- United States: President's Day

February 16

- Lebanon: Hizballah General Secretary Abbas Musawi killed in helicopter ambush. (1992)

February 17

- Christian: Ash Wednesday. In the Western Christian calendar, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). It falls on a different date each year, because it is dependent on the date of Easter.

February 18

- Israel: Policeman killed by suicide bomber; terrorist Group al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claims responsibility. (2002)

February 19

- United Kingdom: Terrorism Act 2000 enacted. (2001)

February 20

- Saudi Arabia: Gunman ambushes car at stoplight, killing United Kingdom citizen; Yemen-born naturalized Saudi later arrested. (2003)
- Japan: Terrorist Group Japanese Red Army member Tustomu Shiosaki sentenced to 30 years for attack on U.S. Embassy in Indonesia. (1998)

February 21

- Uganda: Lord's Resistance Army attacks refugee camp in Northern region, killing 239 and wounding 60. (2004)
- Israel: Terrorist Group Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command bombing of Swissair jet kills 47. (1970)

February 22

- ❑ Iraq: Destruction of al-Askari (Golden Dome) Mosque in Samarra' triggers retaliatory attacks that kill nearly 400 in subsequent week; al-Qaeda in Iraq claims responsibility for attack. (2006)
- ❑ Israel: Terrorist Group Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade bus bombing in Jerusalem kills eight, wounds 72. (2004)
- ❑ Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine founded. (1969)

February 23

- ❑ Colombia: Politician Ingrid Betancourt and three U.S. military contractors – Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes, and Keith Stansell – kidnapped by FARC. (2002)
- ❑ Worldwide: Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda issue fatwa urging the murder of Americans wherever they are found. (1998)

February 25

- ❑ Israel: HAMAS bombs buses in Jerusalem, killing 28 and wounding 80. (1996)
- ❑ Israel: Massacre of 39 Arab worshippers at Tomb of the Patriarchs. (1994)
- ❑ Iraq: Ground offensive launched in Operation Desert Storm. (1991)

February 26

- ❑ United States: A bomb planted in an underground car park at the World Trade Center in New York City leaves six dead and 1,000 injured. Four Muslim fundamentalists are convicted of conspiracy and other charges related to the bombing, thought to have been ordered by Saudi terror master Osama bin Laden. In 1998, the so-called mastermind, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, is convicted and sentenced to life plus 240 years in prison. (1993)
- ❑ United States: A mail bomb sent to Scottsdale's Diversity Director detonated in his hands and injured him and two other Scottsdale employees. (2004)
- ❑ El Rukn Saviours' Day. The annual commemoration of the birth of Master Fard Muhammad - Founder of the Nation of Islam.
- ❑ Islamic Mawlid an-Nabi (Birthday of Muhammad; observed by Sunni)

February 27

- ❑ United States: Terrorist Group Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for stealing 115 baby chicks from Merial Select Laboratory in Berlin, Maryland. Reportedly, Merial is a client of Hunginton Life Sciences. (2003)
- ❑ Afghanistan: Suicide attack on Bagram Air Base during visit by former Vice President Dick Cheney, killing 23 and injuring 20. (2007)
- ❑ Colombia: Terrorist Group M-19 seizes Dominican Embassy, holds 20 ambassadors and 65 others hostage; last hostage released April 21. (1980)

February 28

- ❑ Iraq: Two vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks kill more than 160 Iraqis; Abu Musab al-Zarqawi group claims responsibility. (2005)
- ❑ United Kingdom: Terrorist Group Irish Republican Army kills nine police officers in mortar attacks. (1985)
- ❑ United States: Law enforcement authorities conducted the initial assault on the Branch Davidian Complex in Waco, Texas. (1993)
- ❑ Iraq: al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack of a medical center in central Iraq that killed 125 and injured 140 others. (2005)